CLAIMS

1. A laser-markable composition which comprises a pigment, a solvent and a conductive polymer that absorbs IR radiation.

2. A composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a binder having a labile group.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pigment comprises an multivalent metal that undergoes a colour change due to a change in oxidation state, on irradiation.

4. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the metal oxyanion is an octamolybdate.

5. A composition according to any preceding claim, which additionally comprises a colour-former.

6. A composition according to claim 5, which comprises a substantially colourless electron-donating dye precursor.

7. A method for providing an image on a substrate, which comprises applying to the substrate a pigment and a conductive polymer that absorbs IR radiation, followed by irradiation.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the irradiation is by means of a laser emitting light at a wavelength of 800-1500 nm.